

October 29, 1949.

Dr. A. J. Salle,  
Dept. of Bacteriology,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Dr. Salle:

The paper "Variation in pigment production in *Staphylococcus aureus*", by Byatt, Jann, and yourself, which appeared last year in J. Bact. has just been called to my attention. I am very sorry to have overlooked it before, especially as it should have been discussed in a review on Bacterial Variation, now nearing publication in Ann. Rev. Microbiology.

I would like very much to try my hand sometime at reproducing the very interesting transformation reported in this paper. If you have no objection to my attempting confirmation, I would appreciate it very much if you could send me copies of the two cultures used in your investigation. I would also be grateful for a reprint of the article.

May I also ask a technical question? No mention was made of sterility tests on the final extract. The retention of the other fermentative characteristics of the transformed strains excludes such contamination as the basis of the transformation, but it might have a bearing on the technique. I also wondered whether it had been affirmed that serum was necessary for the transformation.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Assistant Professor of Genetics

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